The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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LANDLORDS CAN'T GET INJUNCTION WHEN LAW MAKERS' RENTS ARE LOWERED

The United States senate favors an extension of [th]e Ball rent act, which creates a commission that [re]gulates rents in the District of Columbia.

The senate inserted in this law a provision that [st]rips the supreme court of the District of Columbia [o]f any power to review the acts of the rent commis[si]on and divests that court of all power and jurisdic[ti]on to issue an injunction.

This extraordinary provision is as follows:

"No owner or tenant shall apply to the said supreme court of the District of Columbia to review any determination of the commission fixing the fair and reasonable rents, rates, or charges for any rental property or apartment, except by appeal, as hereinbefore provided, and said court shall not issue any injunction, permanent or temporary, restraining or enjoining the commission from fixing the rents, rates or charges for any rental property or apartment, AND SAID COURT IS HEREBY DIVESTED OF ANY AND ALL POWER AND JURISDICTION TO ISSUE ANY SUCH INJUNCTION."

Here is an attack on the injunction process that organized labor has never made.

The workers' objection to the injunction in labor disputes is that it is a violation of the purposes of the injunction process, which was intended to be used only in cases where the plaintiff has no other remedy at law and where property is involved.

In the Ball rent act, however, the senate notifies the court that while this act affects property, the injunction process must not be used.

The reason for this unusual action by the senate may be found in the fact that profiteering landlords have been playing no favorites in the nation's capital and lawmakers have been caught in their net.

It is easy to guess the reply of senators if they were asked to amend the Clayton law by providing that courts are "hereby divested of any and all power and jurisdiction to issue any such injunction" against trade unionists soliciting membership, against picketing, or against withholding patronage.

Senators would be shocked if workers made this demand in matters involving human liberty, but these senators take a different position when property is involved—and, it might be added, when their own pocketbooks are involved.

Loud protest is made by defenders of the labor injunction when workers insist that the injunction be confined to its original purpose. "They want license to violate law" shriek those who are now silent as the United States senate strips an equity court of its power when human rights are not involved.

Summed up, this situation presents itself:

Strikers can be enjoined, as usual, where it is shown that in the exercise of their constitutional rights a business man loses patronage, which he does not—and can not—own.

Owners of houses and apartments, however, can not secure an injunction against the District of Columbia rent commission when it lowers rental charges of senators and other influential citizens.

While it may be true that gouging landlords stung the senate into action, the notice to the court that it can not use its injunction powers is one of the few instances where congress notified courts that the people's representatives are supreme.

During the reconstruction period, following the war between the states, the United States supreme court was given a somewhat similar notice in the McCardle case. The court quietly accepted the hint.

During a discussion of that bill in the senate, Mr. Stewart of Nevada expressed these sentiments that are rarely heard now in law-making bodies:

"Mr. President, we are charged with being afraid of the supreme court. I tell the senator from Indiana that we are not afraid of the supreme court. If the supreme court goes outside of a case before it and sets up its will and issues proclamations we are no more bound by those proclamations than we should be by the proclamations of any other body of men acting outside of their jurisdiction."

COAL OWNERS' ATTORNEYS CONTROL STATE MACHINERY

Charles Town, W. Va., May 6.—Coal owners' lawyers are in charge of the treason trials of miners. These lawyers are paid by the state. William Belcher, well known coal owners' attorney, and bitter foe of trade unionism, made the state's opening statement and outlined what the state—or, more correctly, the coal owners—would attempt to prove. Belcher represented the coal owners at the recent probe of West Virginia conditions that was conducted by the senate committee on education and labor.

Belcher secured an injunction, last month, from Federal Judge McClintic which would destroy the Mingo tent colony and prevent the miners from organizing. This order has been temporarily held up by the federal court of appeals.

Assisting Belcher is C. W. Osenton, chief counsel for the William McKell coal company, one of the largest anti-union concerns in the state. Osenton is also counsel for the Logan county coal association, and has directed all legal proceedings against the miners in that thug-ridden section. Another Belcher aid is George W. Williams, attorney for anti-union coal owners in the Winding Gulf field.

Prosecuting Attorney Porterfield of this (Jefferson) county withdrew from the case at the opening of the trial. He told the court that "I have never seen any of the indictments nor any of the witnesses." He said this is a Logan county case, in which the Logan county prosecutor, John Chaffin, is more familiar. The Logan county official is related to Don Chaffin, king of the Logan county gun men and thugs.

Another significant fact is that Governor Morgan did not call in Attorney General England in the case. The attorney general has indicated his independence of coal owners and their gun men on more than one occasion.

As the case now stands, the prosecuting machinery of the state is in the hands of coal owners.

[M]INE GUARD SYSTEM IS NOT MENTIONED

Charles Town, W. Va., May 6. In its opening statement at the [mi]ners' trial here, the state out[lin]ed its plan of battle, but made [n]o reference to the mine guard [sy]stem, which controls several [W]est Virginia counties.

The defense quickly noted this [at]tempt to ignore the cause of [al]l the trouble, and issued this [st]atement:

"The prosecution in its opening [st]atement advisedly avoided any [re]ference to the notorious guard [sy]stem of Logan, McDowell and [ot]her counties in southern West [V]irginia which maintains condi[tio]ns referred to by Senator Ken[yo]n as an industrial autocracy.

"The industrial turmoil which [ha]s so long disgraced this section [is] a direct result of this system. [It] is a tribute to the stirling [A]mericanism of the hardy moun[ta]ineers that they did not tamely [su]bmit to a forcible deprivation of [th]eir civil rights by an army of [co]mpany guards. It is little won[de]r that the prosecution avoided [an]y reference to this system.

"Governor Morgan was elected [on] a platform pledging the aboli[tio]n of this system and has de[no]unced it in numerous public ad[dr]esses. Senator Borah, referring [to] Logan county, in particular, [sa]id: 'They corralled them in [bu]nches, tried them in groups and [se]ntenced them in herds.'"

[P]ARTY INDEPENDENCE ALARMS POLITICIANS

Washington, May 6.—The in[cr]ease of party independence and [no]n-partisanship is alarming poli[tic]ians, who are demanding that [th]e old convention system be re[sto]red.

The Washington Post, which is [co]nsidered a semi-official spokes[ma]n for the administration, prints [a] two-column editorial in favor of [re]turning to the old system, which [be]came so obnoxious to citizens. [Af]ter summing up why a change [sh]ould be made, the Post frankly [ac]knowledges that the primary [sy]stem destroys party discipline [an]d party control.

This, says the Post, is "the under[ly]ing and practically incontrover[ti]ble argument against the direct [pr]imary * * * It tends to destroy [pa]rty organization and it, there[fo]re, is subversive of government [by] political parties."

"PETTY SCALPING."

Boston, May 6.—"Petty business [sca]lping, based upon wage reduc[tio]n, must stop somewhere," says [Ch]arles L. Baine, editor of Shoe [W]orkers' Journal. "As a policy it [is] a destroyer rather than a builder [of] business. So far as shoe making [is] concerned, that policy will not be [to]lerated. We would rather see [mo]re business building and less [bu]siness scalping.

"No method has yet been devised [th]at will make a country afflicted [wi]th general business sickness con[su]me a normal amount of merchan[dis]e. Deflation has temporarily de[st]royed the desire and in some cases [th]e ability to buy goods.

"Until that ability and desire have [be]en restored there will be a nar[ro]w market. If wage reductionists [re]peat their little hogging game, [an]d others follow suit, where will [w]ages go? Employers may as well [un]derstand that wage earners will [ha]ve something to say about it."

22 ENGINES PULLED.

Hagerstown, Md., May 6.—Repre[se]ntatives of the interstate com[me]rce commission pulled 22 Western [M]aryland railroad engines out of [se]rvice when it was found that their [co]ndition endangered life and [pr]operty.

The retiremet of the engines has [de]stroyed the company's propa[ga]nda that it has hundreds of com[pe]tent workers. The strikers show [th]at strikebreakers are being paid [$]60 a day, besides their sustenance, [bu]t the rolling stock is falling to [pi]eces. The strike was caused by [th]e company contracting its repair [wo]rk to a private concern, followed [by] wage reductions.

CAN'T ATTEND MEETINGS.

Pittsburgh, Pa., May 6.—Sheriff [Sh]aw of Fayette county has taken [up]on himself to regulate free [sp]eech and assemblage in the coke [fie]lds. He has notified miners in [th]at section that they may attend [th]eir own meetings, but can not [at]tend other meetings or hold a [ge]neral meeting.

[T]O CONTROL FREIGHT CARS.

Washington, May 6.—Complete [sta]ndardization of freight cars and [ce]ntral control of distribution of [al]l classes of freight cars will be [in]cluded in recommendations to be [ma]de to congress by the joint com[mi]ssion of agricultural inquiry as [a] result of its study of the car [sh]ortage question.

SHIP SUBSIDY BILL ADVOCATES MAKE RECKLESS CLAIMS

Washington, May 6.—"The effort to secure the support of labor men for the present ship subsidy bill is based upon gross misrepresentation," says President Gompers, writing in American Federationist, current issue. "It is represented by shipping interests and by emissaries of the United States shipping board that the enactment of the bill will provide work for those who are now idle. It is an appeal which, if based upon truth, would naturally have great interest in the present period of unemployment. Those who have not had the opportunity to analyze the bill and to know the facts surrounding the introduction in both houses of congress, conceivably may be deceived. Willful deception of workingmen in that manner, however, is a most ignoble and dishonorable performance.

"New York and Boston are repair ports and representatives of shipping interests make it appear that large amounts of conditioning and repair work will be available in those ports upon passage of the bill. The fact is, that the available tonnage already in condition is above the tonnage required. No matter what may be the provisions of the bill, no matter how generous may be the manner in which the bill would turn over the government's tonnage to private interests, it is clear that there will be no reconditioning of any material amount until the requirements of the commercial world create a demand for more ships than are now in active service. International, manufacturing, business and financial conditions should make it clear, even to the casual observer, that no such demand is in prospect for a considerable period of time.

"The appeal is made to longshoremen that the passage of the bill will create additional work for them. This appeal, on its face, is particularly ridiculous, since longshoremen load and unload all vessels entering our ports, no matter what flag may be flown by these vessels.

"The promise to the longshoremen that the ship subsidy bill will make for them additional work is a false promise of the most brazen character. As a matter of fact these promises are elusive and unfounded and there is no language of sufficient strength to adequately characterize this deception.

"In addition to all that has been said in relation to repair work and reconditioning, there is no guarantee whatever and no indication that such repair work as may be done will be done under union standards and conditions at reasonable wages. There is nothing in the bill that indicates the slightest concern in that direction, nor is there anything in the bill that compels the employment of a single American at sea.

"In this connection it is well to remember that the shipping interests have been, and are, among the leaders in the anti-union shop campaign. The ship building interests always have refused, so far as they could, to permit any union workers in their establishments.

"Ship owners have refused, as far as they could, to permit any union man upon their ships. Regardless of the manner in which they may talk now in their desire to break in to the treasury of the United States, the leopard will not change its spots."

TREASON AGAINST WHOM?

New York, May 6.—"The court having ruled that the trials of the West Virginia miners for treason are to proceed, it may become a matter of public record just what kind of government it is against which the treason is supposed to have been committed," says the New York World.

"All the evidence on hand indicates that the government of Logan county is the tool of the operators. If that is true, is treason against the operators treason against the state and punishable with death? Is the fact that a government is owned by corporate interests relevant to a trial for treason?

"For a number of years West Virginia has tolerated conditions in Logan, which constituted a direct challenge to state authority. The miners defied a group of men who have continuously defied the state. The question may resolve itself into whose treason comes first."

RENTERS FOR 30 YEARS HAVE BEEN EVICTED

DuBois, Pa., May 6.—Miners have been evicted from company houses of the Kittle Creek coal company at Bitumen, near here. These workers lived in that town for 10, 20 and 30 years and have paid enough rent to buy the town five times over.

The Miners' union immediately started to build tents and barracks for the families and citizens are aiding in feeding and housing the women and children.

ANTIS ARE HYPOCRITICAL.

Stamford, Conn., May 6.—"The 'open shop' movement was and is a hypocritical attempt to cripple the unions under the guise of promoting freedom of contract in industrial relations," said Rev. Dr. John A. Ryan of the Catholic university at Washington before the Connecticut conference on social work.

"Until capitalists change their attitude on this point, no progress toward genuine co-operation with labor is possible," he said.

"The problem of co-operation between the two classes is not a problem of removing all antagonisms and all divergent interests. That object is simply unattainable. Rather is the problem that of reducing the elements of conflict to their lowest dimensions, and increasing, so far as practicable, the elements of common interest."

WORKERS ARE DECEIVED.

Cumberland, Md., May 6.—Workers throughout the country are being deceived by the strike-bound Western Maryland railroad and the Dickson construction and repair company which has a contract for doing the railroad's repair work.

At a meeting of strikers in this city a stranger stated that he and 19 other men were brought here in automobiles from Cleveland where they were hired by a B. & O. employment agency. On the bottom of the form, which the men signed, it stated that there was no strike. The men refused to go to work.

CO-OPS. PAY DIVIDENDS.

Sparta, Ill., May 6.—The last report issued by the local co-operative society shows dividends are being paid regularly and the various funds are maintained. These co-ops. are strict Rochdales and follow that system—of selling at market prices and returning savings on the basis of goods purchased, rather than on stock held.

FIGHTING KANSAS LAW.

Kansas City, Kan., May 6.—Federal Judge Pollack has granted the United Mine Workers a 30-days' extension in which to file an amended petition involving the constitutionality of the Kansas "can't-strike" law.

Another Volunteer Would "Save" Unions

New York, May 6.—Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the Lockwood committee, is the latest volunteer who would "save trade unionism from itself." This attorney seems alarmed at the opposition to organized labor—it is a new thing to him; he never knew or heard of the time when trade unionism was looked upon as a conspiracy, and is not aware that the present antagonism is but a feeble revival of these witchcraft days.

Mr. Untermyer is confident that if his plan is adopted, trade unionism will become popular. This is undoubtedly true, for under the Untermyer system, unions would have to be licensed; would have to submit their constitutions and by-laws to a state commission; would permit any disgruntled member to appeal any action by a union to a state commission, and to have any practice or rule by the union abated by a state commission.

Mr. Untermyer proves he has a humorous vein, for he declares:

"My conception of labor union regulation has none of the terrors that are involved in the word 'regulation,' as seen from the point of view of the labor leaders. It does not even involve enforced incorporation of labor unions."

His scheme would make trade union incorporation unnecessary, as every act of a trade union would be subject to review by a state commission, on complaint of a conveniently-placed company spy.

OPPOSE "REGULATORS."

Chicago, May 6.—Thousands of trade unionists paraded the downtown section as a protest against a self-constituted "citizens' committee" that would assume control of a controversy between building craftsmen and their employers. The purpose of the committee is to install the anti-union shop.

President Gompers was the principal speaker at a mass meeting following the parade. The event was arranged jointly by the local federation of labor and the building trades council. The "regulators" boast that they have millions of dollars to aid them in establishing what they term "industrial justice." These "regulators" represent the cheapest sweat-shop employers and most rabid trade unionists and organized labor is a unit in resisting their attempt to control the industrial life of the city.

DO BOSSES WANT PEACE?

New York, May 6.—It is predicted that garment manufacturers will assume a more conciliatory attitude toward the Ladies' Garment Workers' union, since the installation of George Jablow, newly elected chairman of the employers' organization.

Recently the employers attempted to break a contract with the union and install piece work. The union defeated this move, and since then both sides have been preparing for the expiration of the contract. Mr. Jablow is now quoted in the public press as favoring "peace consistent with livable conditions for both the workers and the industry."

DEFENDS TRADE UNIONS.

Philadelphia, May 6.—In an address in this city, Lady Astor, the first woman member of the British parliament, announced herself a strong advocate of trade unions—"institutions that pull up society."

In explaining that England encourages trade unionism, she urged "continuous consultation between capital and labor" as being far more desirable than "international lockouts and strikes."

JURY MOSTLY FARMERS.

Charles Town, W. Va., May 6.—Farmers dominate the jury selected to try William Blizzard, union mine official, on the charge of treason. Eight of the jurymen are farmers, mostly small tenants. Another juror is an employe in a planing mill, another is an automobile business man, and the others a portable saw mill operator and a merchant.

West Virginia's Governor Says He's Helpless Before Coal Mine Guard System of That State

Charles Town, W. Va., May 6.—Coal owners' attorneys, who are using the machinery of the state to fight organized miners, made a costly blunder when they placed Governor Morgan on the stand and then cross-examined him.

Attorneys for the defense sprang into the legal loop hole, and despite frantic objections which Judge Woods overruled as fast as presented, the miners' attorneys got this evidence before the jury:

Admission by the governor of the state that a private government, resting on the notorious mine guard system, exists in West Virginia;

Admission by the governor that he and a majority of the present legislature were elected 18 months ago on a promise to end this system, and that this pledge has not been kept.

Admission by the governor that on August 7 last organized miners assembled in a lawful manner in Charleston, the capital of the state, and adopted and send to him resolutions asking him to redeem his platform and inaugural pledges and end the mine guard system by calling a special session of the legislature for that purpose; that after 10 days' delay he answered in writing that he condemned the system as heartily as they, but was powerless to abolish or abate it, and that only after they received this confession did the miners begin their armed assemblage and march toward Mingo.

It was a bad day for the prosecution, and the coal attorneys fumed with anger as Judge Woods sustained the defense they it had the right to show for what purpose the meeting of August 7, at Charleston was held, when the prosecution attempted to use the governor to sustain its point that that meeting was "lawless."

GAINS THROUGH UNITY.

Chicago, May 6.—Organized street car men celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the installation of their union in this city. International President Mahon was the principal speaker. The membership of the union is 19,000.

When the union was organized wages were as low as 12½ cents an hour. The maximum rate was 21 cents. Today the rates range from 69 to 82 cents.

There was no limit to the work day, which usually averaged 12 and 14 hours. Today the work day is eight hours on week days with eight hours' pay guaranteed, and a six-hour Sunday work day in train service as near as possible. Formerly there were no overtime rates. Today time and one-half rates over eight hours prevail.

Twenty years ago there were no closed vestibules, heated platforms, air brakes or seats for motormen and conductors. Now every car is equipped with these conveniences. The open car menace with motormen operating without sand or protection against storm, and conductors working on footboards, incurring the hazards of passing vehicles and obstructions and being drenched in rain storms, has disappeared.

ASSAILS LOW BANK WAGES.

New York, May 6.—County Judge Taylor of Brooklyn suggests that the Bankers' association "establish a code of ethics and write it in big, bold type that 'the laborer is worthy of his hire.'"

The court took this position after he sentenced a bank bookkeeper who had pleaded guilty to forgery. The testimony showed that the bookkeeper received but $22 a week.

"This is an example of service profiteering not uncommon among banks," said Judge Taylor. "It may not be legally preventable, but it is certainly morally reprehensible."

ROOFERS SIGN CONTRACT.

St. Louis, Mo., May 6.—Because the Master roofers' association refused to accept former apprentice conditions, the Roofers' union went on strike and proceeded to sign agreement with individual contractors. The workers' success soon brought the organized employers in line and peace again reigns in this calling.

MEET MEXICAN UNIONISTS.

El Paso, Texas, May 6.—A conference with Mexican and Texas trade unionists was held in this city on the occasion of the annual convention of the Texas state federation of labor. The purpose was to closer affiliate workers of the two countries.

BEWARE OF COSSACKS.

Topeka, Kan., May 6.—"Labor must meet the cossack issue before the campaign guns open fire," says the Kansas Trade Unionist, in warning workers that cossack plans are now being laid.

"As is common in political issues of this kind the real purposes of the state constabulary are not mentioned by the machine politicians," says this labor paper. "We hear a great deal about the increasing number of robberies, especially in the 'rural' districts, and what a great help a state constabulary would be in maintaining law and order. But this is not the serious purpose of the state constabulary agitation.

HIGH COAL COST FACTOR.

Washington, May 6.—Accidents and contagious diseases in the Utah coal mining industry cost nearly $1,000,000 a year, according to Dr. Arthur L. Murray, surgeon of the United States bureau of mines. In Dr. Murray's opinion Utah is not an exceptional state in this respect. He says in many other coal mining states the conditions are equally serious.

In a bulletin issued by the bureau of mines on this subject, the medical man says there can not be any considerable number of typhoid cases in a mining camp without an ascertainable source of infection. Sources of infection should and can be prevented, he said, but if established they should be eliminated after the appearance of the first few cases.

ECONOMIC ISSUES LEAD.

Washington, May 6.—"Most of our political battles are fought on economic lines," said Mr. King of Utah, on the floor of the senate. "We may from time to time," he said, "bring in extraneous questions like the league of nations, vital and important as they may be, but, after all, our political contests are fought over economic and industrial questions."

10-CENT STORES PAY.

New York, May 6.—The S. S. Kresge company, operating a string of 5 and 10 cent stores, reports that from January 1 to April 15 sales amounted to $14,871,954, compared with $13,451,279 in the corresponding period of 1921, an increase of 10.6 per cent.

FORCED ON STRIKE.

San Francisco, May 6.—More than 1,000 metal trades workers have been forced on the streets by the California metal trades association, which wants wages cut.

ANTI-UNION DIVISION FORMED BY PUBLISHERS

New York, May 6.—The American newspaper publishers' association has authorized the establishment of an anti-union shop division, which is to be called the "open shop division."

The resolution was introduced by Earl J. McCone, manager of the anti-union Buffalo Commercial. McCone attracted some attention recently by his charge before a congressional committee that the International Typographical union maintains a censor over the editorial policy of newspapers that have agreements with the union.

McCone is secretary of the "open shop" association of American newspaper publishers. He claims 36 members.

The resolution reads:

"Whereas, the open shop division of the Typothetae has proved a source of strength and benefit to the job printer, and frequently to the newspaper publisher, in his time and need; therefore, we believe the time has arrived when the A. N. P. A. should sit up an open shop division to be maintained and operated without opposition or prejudice to any other department of the organization, such a division to constitute a unit of the organization to which publishers who wish to establish and maintain open shop conditions in the mechanical departments may turn for aid; therefore, be it

"Resolved, that the board of directors be instructed to proceed at once to set up an open shop division of the A. N. P. A. under such conditions as will enable it to become a substantial aid to members who desire permanently to operate under open shop conditions, it being definitely understood that this department is under no circumstances to be used as a strike-breaking organization."

TO PROBE OIL LEASE.

Washington, May 6.—The senate has ordered that the government's leasing of naval oil lands be probed by its committee on public lands.

Senators of both parties declared that the exploitation of these lands by private interests is the establishment of a dangerous precedent. It is stated that the oil leases are worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Defenders of the leasing system claim that private interests are drilling wells close to the government lands, and draining the government oil.

"This," said Senator La Follette, "has ever been the specious plea upon which those desiring to exploit this rich field have based their efforts to secure access to it. But even if the weight of scientific opinion were not against the contention that this field can be drained by outside drilling, there is a definite way in which the government can protect itself against such a ruthless system of pillage. It does not have to surrender to the burglars. The oil in these reserves, under decision of the supreme court of the United States, belongs to the government."

DEMAND FREEDOM OF PRESS.

New York, May 6.—At their annual convention here members of the American newspaper publishers' association adopted a resolution expressing "determination to resist all interference with the rights of its members and of the press to free expression under the constitutional guarantee."

In instructing the committee on federal laws to exhaust its resources in maintaining liberty of the press, the resolution declared that it appeared "as an aftermath of the extraordinary executive and judicial powers exercised during the great war, the liberty of the press has been seriously threatened during the past year in efforts to pass restrictive legislation in congress and in state legislatures, and in efforts to throttle criticism by unprecedented legal and judicial proceedings."

RAIL INCOMES GO UP.

Washington, May 6.—One hundred and twenty-three of the 201 class 1 railroads have filed reports for March with the interstate commerce commission which show that their net operating income in that month was $61,678,000, compared with $18,563,800 for the same railroads in March, 1921.

In order to realize a return of 6 per cent on the valuation of the 201 railroads, the remaining 78 class 1 railroads must bring the net operating income of the 201 to $85,395,700.

CITY BUYS CAR LINE.

Ashtabula, Ohio, May 6.—The people's acceptance of an ordinance passed by the city council, whereby the city is to purchase the property of the local street car company for $150,000, ends Ashtabula's street car war. The ordinance was ratified in a special referendum by a majority of 856 votes.

HUGE AUTO PROFITS.

New York, May 6.—The Studebaker corporation reports clear profits of $4,069,972 for the first three months of this year. This is almost double the profits reported during the same period last year.

HOME WORK SHOPS COME UNDER LAW

Harrisburg, Pa., May 6.—Home workers must hold health certificates and their work places must be sanitary and free of any communicable diseases, under a new regulation of the state industrial board, which provides:

"The employer shall not furnish material to any home worker until a certificate of health has been presented from the state or local department of health, setting forth that the home has been inspected and found in a clean and sanitary condition and free from any infectious, contagious or communicable disease. Such certificates shall be valid for a period of one year from date of issue unless revoked by the commissioner for cause."

Provisions of the child labor and women's law are to apply to home workers. Certain educational qualifications are contingent upon the issuance of certificates to minors between the ages of 14 and 16 years. Special rulings for employment of women and children in industrial homes are contained in the draft.

TRADE UNION METHODS COULD EDUCATE BOSSES

Washington, May 6.—Rhode Island jewelry employers need much "education" before they will abandon old-fashioned work conditions, according to a statement in a report on "Women in Rhode Island Industries," issued by the United States women's bureau.

The report makes no mention of the need for trade unionism among these women wage workers, but the following portion of the report indicates that organized labor could function with much benefit:

"Almost all the work in the jewelry industry is of such a nature as to necessitate close application of the eyes. The questions of light and posture had not received sufficient attention from individual managers, and in many establishments old-fashioned methods survived. In the opinion of the president of the jewelry protective association, considerable education along these lines is necessary for the development of the industry and the safeguarding of the workers."

EXPRESS COSTS HEAVY.

Washington, May 6.—Florida vegetable growers must pay one-half of their gross proceeds to express companies for transportation, said Mr. Fletcher of Florida in a speech in the senate.

"If a vegetable grower ships so many cases of egg plant, and his returns are $80," he said, "$40 of that amount goes to the express company. That is about the average deducted from the various account sales. Nearly one-half of the price paid for the product in the market is being taken out by the express company alone. That, of course, is for transportation. That does not include boxing, crating, handling to the depot, and so forth. We ship out of Florida over 250,000 car loads of fruit and vegetables and taxed in this way it is an enormous burden. It is having a more discouraging effect than almost anything that can be imagined."

MINERS PLAY BASE BALL.

Charles Town, W. Va., May 6.—Town folk "rooted" for the miners' baseball team in its game with the local champions for the benefit of a hospital fund controlled by the citizens. The miners won by the score of 7 to 3.

All of the miners are charged with treason or murder. William Blizzard, the first miner to face trial, played right field for his team.

The miners have secured baseball uniforms with the initials "U. M. W. of A." across their breasts. As they walked on the diamond they were given a rousing cheer by Charles Town citizens, who show their admiration for the accused on every occasion.

FATALITIES INCREASE.

Washington, May 6.—Accidents at coal mines in the United States killed 187 men in March of this year, according to the bureau of mines. This is an increase of 36 per cent over March of last year, when 137 fatalities were reported.

The bureau states that during the past nine years the month of March has averaged 201 coal-mine fatalities.

BRICKIES' STRIKE ENDS.

Windsor, Ontario, May 6.—After a months' strike bricklayers in this city accepted a compromise offer of $1.07 3-4. The men demanded $1.15 and were offered $1.

LABORERS GET 55 CENTS.

Peoria, Ill., May 6.—Building laborers and contractors have agreed to a one-year wage scale of 55 cents an hour.

UNION OFFICERS BOLT RAIL BOARD HEARING

Chicago, May 6.—Headed by President Jewell of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department, several trade union officials walked out of a hearing conducted by the railroad labor board as a protest against the board permitting organizations not parties to the wage dispute to enter into the controversy.

The unionists insist that the law clearly provides that the board shall fix a "just and reasonable" wage. The railroads ignore this provision and insist that wages be based on similar work in private industry. "Paper" organizations, alleging to represent "the public," the shippers, and other elements, have been demanding that they be heard in these wage conferences. The workers have resisted this policy and declare that the board has no authority to listen to evidence and to make its decision on evidence which has nothing to do with what are "just and reasonable" wages.

In admitting these outside organizations the relations between the board and the workers have become more strained. The workers endeavored to have the board apply the law as rigidly against railroads as against shop employes, but they have failed.

Last year, when a railroad strike was threatened, the board thundered that this was a defiance of government because the workers would ignore the board. Railroads are making no effort to obey the board's orders, and nothing is said. The Pennsylvania railroad went so far as to secure an injunction against the board making public the fact that it, the railroad, disobeyed its orders.

FORM RAG PICKERS' BLOC?

Washington, May 6.—Have dishonest manufacturers who are opposing the truth-in-fabric bill formed a rag pickers' bloc? asked Congressman Ramseyer.

This bill would compel manufacturers to label the amount of shoddy in their products.

"I want to suggest," said the lawmaker, "that there is a rag pickers' bloc with apparently tremendous influences somewhere in the country that is preventing this truth-in-fabric bill from coming out of the committee, thus protecting dishonest manufacturers of shoddy and robbing the people of hundreds of millions of dollars more than the blue-sky sharks ever dreamed of. I insist that this great committee should quit wasting its time with bills over which it has no jurisdiction and get busy and report out bills touching on transportation and truth in fabric for the relief and protection of the people."

STOCK YARDS LAW UPHELD.

Washington, May 6.—The packer and stock yard regulation act, passed by congress last year, has been upheld by the United States supreme court. The act was contested by Chicago commission merchants, who refused to be regulated and who attempted to enjoin the secretary of agriculture from enforcing the act. The claim was made that the stock yards do not come under interstate commerce. The court held that the stock yards are not a place of rest or final destination, "but a throat through which the current flows and the transactions which occur therein are only incident to this current from the west to the east, and from one state to another."

REV. FR. "TIM" ARBITRATES.

St. Louis, Mo., May 6.—Rev. Dempsey, known as "Father Tim," served as arbitrator in the wage dispute between carpenters and employers. The workers previously reduced their rate from $1.25 to $1.12½ an hour. The bosses attempted to cut to 95 cents. The arbitrator ruled that $1.10 an hour would be the rate for one year, starting May 1. This is the thirty-seventh arbitration award by "Father Tim."

WILL AID BLIZZARD.

Charles Town, W. Va., May 6.—Judge Reese Blizzard, at one time district attorney, has telegraphed from Parkersburg that he will come here to defend his nephew, William Blizzard, who is now facing treason charges, and is being prosecuted by coal owners' attorneys in the pay of the state.

REPUDIATE REACTION.

Seattle, May 6.—At the primary election in this city the anti-union element was defeated.

Organized labor assisted in the fight against these forces. Reports from Tacoma indicate that reaction and anti-unionism suffered a similar defeat.